

Application No. 09/682,170

RD-29400-1

the volume, by removing a predetermined amount of water, to produce a concentrated third liquid reaction mixture which can... *be returned to a subsequent carbonylation reaction to effectively catalyze the carbonylation of an aromatic hydroxy compound...*" (emphasis added). In another paragraph [0033] embodiment an "evaporation step" yields a sixth liquid reaction mixture, which comprises the active catalyst composition and is *ready to be returned to a subsequent carbonylation reaction to effectively catalyze the carbonylation or [sic, of] an aromatic hydroxy compound*" (emphasis added). Example 1, paragraph [0035] describes reactivating a deactivated carbonylation catalyst composition" and using the reactivated catalyst "directly" "without intervening reducing step or oxidizing step" as claimed in the claims.

Specification paragraphs [0003], [0033] and particularly the detailed step by step procedure described in paragraph [0035] enable one skilled in the reactivation carbonylation catalyst art to make and use the catalyst "without intervening reducing step or oxidizing step." The rejection of claims 1 to 84 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 84 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip D. Freedman

Reg. No. 24,163

Philip D. Freedman PC

Customer Number 25101

P.O. Box 19076

Alexandria, Virginia 22320

(703) 313-0171

Email: tekesq@tekesq.com

Alexandria, Virginia

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